

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO ERDA GERMANTOWN

SECSTATE WASHDC 398

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS00919

ERDA PASS TO N. SIEVERING,AIA AND R. ROBERTS,ANE

PARIS PASS TO A. KRAMISH,

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS TECH

SUBJECT: DRAGON PROJECT

REF: (A) STATE 00522

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED ON JANUARY 27 BY FRANK GOLDNER OF THE ERDA BRUSSELS OFFICE FROM M DEBACCI OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AS TO EC PLANS TO EFFECT EXTENSION OF THE DRAGON PROJECT FOR THE REMAINDER OF CY-1976.

2. A PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PREPARED BY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 4 INCORPORATING THREE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS;

(A) COUNCIL APPROVAL BE SOUGHT FOR THE EQUIVALENT OF AN 100,000. BRITISH POUND CONTRIBUTION BY THE EC FOR THE DRAGON PROJECT MATERIALS PROGRAM.

(AS DISCUSSED IN THE REFTEL, THIS IS TO COMPLEMENT FUNDS ALREADY MADE AVAILABLE TO PRESERVE THE HIGH TEMPERATURE MATERIALS PROGRAM THROUGH CY-76)

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(B) COUNCIL APPROVAL BE SOUGHT FOR APPROXIMATELY 1.3 MILLION

POUNDS FOR A DRAGON IRRADIATED FUEL DATA RETRIEVAL PROGRAM;
AND (CGAPPROVAL BE OBTAINED FOR THE OVERALL DRAGON PROJECT
ENTITY AS A PROJECT BE EXTENDED FROM MARCH 31, 1976, UNTIL
DECEMBER 31, 1976.

3. IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION,
DEBACCI ESTIMATES THEY COULD BE SUBMITTED ONE WEEK LATER TO THE
EC COUNCIL. PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING ON
FEBRUARY 24, 1976, THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE
"GROUP ON ATOMIC QUESTIONS" AND THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES ((COREPER).
A FAILURE OF COREPER TO APPROVE PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WAS THE
MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK PRIOR TO THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING ON THE
DRAGON ISSUE.

4. DEBACCI EXPLAINED IF ITEMS (A) AND (B) WERE DISAPPROVED, THE
POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ITEM (C) COULD STILL BE APPROVED.
THIS WOULD PERMIT THE LIMITED PROGRAMS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IN
THE REFTEL TO CONTRIBUTE PAST MARCH 31, 1976.

5. ITEM (B) REFERS TO A PROGRAM WHICH TO DATE ONLY HAS GERMAN
SUPPORT VIA KFA JUELICH AND IS AIMED AT EXTRACTING DATA FROM
EXISTING IRRADIATED DRAGON FUEL WHICH WOULD BE LOST IF ONLY
"DECOMMISSIONING" PLANS WERE EFFECTED.

6. COMMENT: IN PREPARATION FOR THE ABOVE ACTIONS, DEBACCI PLANS
TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL IN DETAIL WITH MEMBERS OF THE DRAGON BOARD
AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3 - SPECIFICALLY AIMING FOR
U.K. GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. HE ALSO WILL MEET ON JANUARY 29
WITH MEMBERS OF THE BONN MINISTRY.

7. IT MUST BE NOTED THAT EVEN IF ALL THE ABOVE IS SUCCESSFUL,
THE NUCLEAR SIDE OF THE DRAGON PROJECT IS STILL "DEAD",
AS ALL OPERATION PERSONNEL ARE GONE FROM THE PROJECT, AND THE
PROJECT PRESENTLY DOES NOT HAVE REPLACEMENT FUEL FOR A REACTOR
STARTUP. THEREFORE,
TALLING NEW AGREEMENTS AND FUNDING FROM THAT DISCUSSED ABOVE
WOULD BE NECESSARY IF THE REAL DRAGON PROGRAM WERE EVER TO BE
REESTABLISHED.
END COMMENT.
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